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REMARKS

In the office action, the restriction requirement is made final and therefore claims 8-15 and 22-28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2 have also been canceled and new claim 29 has been added. Claims 3-7, 16-21 and 29 are therefore pending.

The office action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the Sigma Aldrich catalog. In response, claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,449,302 ("Nachbur"). In response, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and claim 3 has been amended. Further, claim 3 has been amended to require at least one of monomer unit b and monomer unit c in both Formulas 2 and 3 to be present. Support for this amendment appears in the examples set forth in the specification beginning on page 12, line 10 and extending to page 18, line 10. Further, in page 4, the substituent groups R1-R6 are clearly identified. Thus, the monomer units b and c of both Formulas 2 and 3 are clearly identified as possibly being present, examples are provided with them being present, and therefore the amendment of claim 3 to require at least one of b or c being present is clearly supported by the specification as filed.

In contrast, Nachbur merely describes a polymer composed of vinylidenechloride, butadienesulfone, methylacrylate and acrylic acid. As clearly shown in Nachbur, none of the examples teach or suggest the polymers of Formulas 2 and 3 wherein at least one of the monomer units b or c must be present.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection of claim 3 in view of Nachbur has been traversed and that claim 3 is now allowable. Because claim 3 is allowable, applicants respectfully submit that remaining claims 3-7 and 16-21 are allowable as well.

With respect to new claim 29, applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable as Nachbur does not teach or suggest the polymers of either Formula 2 or 3 wherein the monomer units b and c must be present in an amount up to and including 50mol% and 80mol% respectively. This claim is clearly supported by the specification for the same reasons that claim 3 is supported.

Because applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now allowable, an early action indicating the allowability of this application is respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 17, 2003

By:



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